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09/719,960	06/14/2001	Peter Hagerlid	A33846-PCT-	5244

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EXAMINER

SISSON, BRADLEY L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1634

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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EXAMINER
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**Commissioner for Patents**

Applicant's representative's remarks concerning the teachings of US Patent 5,874,219 (Rava et al.) and US Patent 5,556,961 (Foote et al.) was discussed. It was noted that while Foote et al., does teach the use a photolithographic mask at column 7, which is used in the synthesis of the array, Foote et al., also teaches of a second mask, which is retained. Specifically, Foote et al., column 3, lines 39-52, teaches of a "primary mask" that is there permanently. In view of the teaching that the "[P]ermanently' blocked areas of the substrate surface constitute a 'primary mask' which separates and defines the borders of the cells to which the biomonomers and biopolymers are attached during synthesis of the array," Foote et al., is considered to teach the limitation of "a sample receptacle comprising an array of reaction sites and masking means between said reaction sites within said array."

Motivation for using a permanent mask is also found at column 3 where Foote teaches that their preferred embodiment incorporates the use of such a mask and that it results in better-defined arrays, and that the spots of the array can be smaller, thereby requiring fewer reagents.

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Art Unit: 1634